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Company of Scotland
Trading to Africa and
the Indies

The original papers and
letters ...

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THE

Original Papers

AND

LETTERS,

Relating to the

Scots COMPANY,

Trading to

Africa and the *Indies*:

From the Memorial given in againſt their taking Subſcriptions at *Hamburgh*, by Sir *Paul Ricaut*, His Majeſty's Reſident there, to Their laſt Addreſs ſent up to His Majeſty in *December*, 1699.

Faithfully extracted from the Companies Books.

Printed *Anno* 1700.

The Original PAPERS *and* LETTERS, *&c.*

THere having been a great deal printed and ſaid of late concerning the Company of *Scotland*, trading to *Africa* and the *Indies*, and their Colony of *Darien*. In order to obviate all Miſrepreſentations that may happen on either ſide in the Heat of Debate, it is thought fit to publiſh the following Originals without any Reflection, which will ſet that Matter in a true Light, give the Publick full Information as to the Principal Matters of Fact, and cannot juſtly be taken ill by any Perſon or Party whatever.

A

MEMORIAL

Given in to the

Senate of the City of *Hamburg*, in *French*. Faithfully tranſlated into *Engliſh*.

To their Magnificences the Burgo-Maſters, and to the Gentlemen Counſellors of this City of *Hamburg*.

WE the Under-Subſcribers, Miniſters of His Majeſty the King of *Great Britain* have, upon the arrival of Commiſſioners from an Indian Company in *Scotland*, repreſented at two ſeveral times to Your Magnificences and Lordſhips, from the King our Maſter, That His Majeſty underſtanding that the ſaid Commiſſioners endeavoured to open to themſelves a Commerce and Trade in theſe Parts, by making ſome Convention or Treaty with this City, had commanded us moſt expreſly to notifie to Your Magnificences and Lordſhips, That if you enter into ſuch Conventions with private Men, his Subjects, who have neither Credential Letters, nor are any otherwiſe authoriz'd by His Majeſty, That His Majeſty would regard ſuch Proceedings as an Affront to his Royal Authority, and that he would

would not fail to resent it. Your Magnificences and Lordships had the Goodness to Answer us thereto by Your Deputy, That you would no way enter into Commerce with the afore-mentioned Commissioners, nor encourage them in any Sort. Notwithstanding whereof we the Subscribers do see with Displeasure, That without any regard to the Remonstrances made by us in the Name of His Majesty, the Inhabitants of this City forbear not to make Conventions and Treaties with the said Commissioners, who dare even erect a Publick Office to receive Subscribers, as appears by the annexed Print. And it is not very credible, That Strangers could so openly enterprize Matters of such Importance, without being supported by this Government. Wherefore we make our just Complaints thereof to Your Magnificences and Lordships, beseeching You, in the Name of the King our Master, to remedy in time, that which is begun, and to do it so effectually as to prevent any Consequences it may have, capable to disturb the Friendship and good Correspondence which we would cultivate between *England* and the City of *Hamburg*. We wait Your Magnificences and Lordships Answer in Writing to be transmitted to His Majesty our Master, and we are,

Your Magnificences and Lordships
most Humble Servants,

Paul Rycaut, Resident for His Majesty the King of *Great Britain*, in the City of *Hamburg*.

Cressett, His Britannick Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary, at the Courts of *Lunnenburgh*, and Plenipotentiary at the Treaty of *Pinenberg*.

Done at *Hamburg*, *April* 7. 1697.

To

To the King's Moſt Excellent Majeſty.

The Humble Addreſs of the Council-General of the Company of *Scotland*, Trading to *Africa* and the *Indies*.

May it pleaſe Your Majeſty,

WHereas, by the XXXII. Act of the Fourth Seſſion, and by the VIII. Act of the Fifth Seſſion of Your Majeſty's Currant Parliament, as well as by Your Majeſty's Patent under the Great Seal of this Kingdom, This Company is eſtabliſh'd with ſuch Ample Priviledges as were thought moſt proper for encouraging both Natives and Foreigners to join in the Carrying on, Supporting and Advancement of our Trade: The moſt Conſiderable of the Nobility, Gentry, Merchants, and whole Body of the Royal Borroughs, have (upon the Inducement and Publick Faith of Your Majeſty's ſaid Acts of Parliament and Letters Patent) contributed as Adventurers in raiſing a far more Conſiderable Joint-Stock, than any was ever before raiſed in this Kingdom, for any Publick Undertaking or Project of Trade whatſoever, which makes it now of ſo much the more Univerſal a Concern to the Nation.

And for the better enabling us to accompliſh the Ends of Your Majeſty's ſaid Acts of Parliament and Letters Patents, we have, in purſuance thereunto, appointed certain Deputies of our own Number to tranſact and negotiate our neceſſary Affairs beyond Sea; And at the ſame time to treat with ſuch Foreigners of any Nation, in amity with Your Majeſty, as may be inclinable to join with us for the Purpoſes aforeſaid.

In

In the Profecution of which Commiſſion to our ſaid Deputies (veſted with full Power and Authority, according to Law) we are a little ſurpriz'd to find, to the great Hinderance and Obſtruction of our Affairs, that Your Majeſty's Envoy to the Courts of *Lunenburg*, and Reſident at *Hamburg*, have under Pretence of ſpecial Warrant from Your Majeſty, given in a Joint-ſubſcrib'd Memorial to the Senate of *Hamburg*, expreſly invading the Privileges granted to our Company by Your Majeſty's ſaid Acts of Parliament and Leters Patent, as by the herewith tranſmitted Copy may appear.

By the which Memorial we ſuſtain great and manifeſt Prejudices, ſince both the Senate and Inhabitants of the ſaid City of *Hamburg*, are thereby (contrary to the Law of Nations) expreſly threatned with Your Majeſty's high Diſpleaſure, if they, or either of them, ſhould countenance or joyn with us in any Treaty of Trade or Commerce whatſoever; which deprives us of the Aſſiſtance which we had reaſon to expect from ſeveral Inhabitants of that City.

For Redreſs whereof, we do in all Duty and Humility apply to Your Majeſty, not only for the Protection and Maintenance of our Privileges and Freedom of Trade, but alſo for Reparation of Damages, conform to Your Majeſty's ſaid Acts of Parliament and Letters Patent: And do further beg Leave humbly to repreſent to Your Majeſty, that tho' by the ſaid Act of Parliament and Letters Patent, we conceive our ſelves legally and ſufficiently authorized to treat even with any Sovereign Potentate or Eſtate in Unity with Your Majeſty, for the Support and Advancement of our Trade, yet we by our ſaid Deputies have only treated with particular and private Merchants of the ſaid City of *Hamburg*, without ever making any the leaſt

leaſt Propoſal to the Senate thereof. And this we humbly conceive to be the natural Right and Privilege of all Merchants whatſoever, even tho' we had wanted the Sanction of ſo ſolemn Laws. And without ſome ſpeedy Redreſs be had therein, not only this Company, but alſo all other individual Merchants of this Kingdom, muſt from henceforward conclude, that all our Rights and Freedom of Trade are, and may be, further, by our Neighbours, violently wreſted out of our Hands.

We therefore, to prevent the further evil Conſequences of the ſaid Memorial to our Company in particular, do make our moſt humble and earneſt Requeſt to Your Majeſty, That You would be graciouſly pleaſed to grant us ſuch a Declaration, as in Your Royal Wiſdom You ſhall think fit to render the Senate and Inhabitants of the ſaid City of *Hamburg*, and all others that are or may be concerned, ſecure from the Threatnings and other Suggeſtions contained in the ſaid Memorial, as well as to render us ſecure under Your Majeſty's Protection in the full proſecution of our Trade, and free enjoyment of our Lawful Rights, Privileges and Immunities, contained in Your Majeſty's ſaid Acts of Parliament and Letters Patent above-mention'd.

Sign'd at Edinburgh, *the* 28*th Day of* June 1697, *in Name, Preſence, and by Order of the ſaid Council-General, by,*

May it pleaſe Your Majeſty,

Your Majeſty's moſt Faithful, moſt Dutiful, moſt Humble, and moſt Obedient Subject and Servant, Sic ſubſcribitur,

Yeſter. P.

His

His Majesty's Answer to the said Address.

By the Right Honourable John *Earl of* Tullibardin, &c. *and Sir* James Ogilvie, *Knight, Secretaries of State.*

My Lords and Gentlemen,

WE are impowered by the King to signifie unto you, That as soon as His Majesty shall return to *England*, he will take into Consideration what you have presented unto him: And that in the mean time His Majesty will give Orders to the Envoy at the Courts of *Lunenburg*, and his Resident at *Hamburg*, not to make use of His Majesty's Name or Authority, for obstructing your Company in the Prosecution of your Trade with the Inhabitants of that City.

Sign'd at Edinburgh, *the Second Day of* August, 1697. Sic subscribitur,

Tullibardine. Ja. Ogilvie.

To the Council-General of the Company of Scotland, *Trading to* Africa *and the* Indies.

THE

Company's Letter

TO THE

Right Honourable the Earl of *Tullibardin*, Secretary of State.

Edinburgh, Sept. 28. 1697.

May it pleaſe your Lordſhip,

IT is not unknown to Your Lordſhip in what Humour the Council General of our Company and moſt Part of the Nation were in, with Relation to the Memorial given in to the Senate of *Hamburg*, againſt our Company by the Engliſh Miniſters there, upon which enſued the Council-Generals late Addreſs, tranſmitted to His Majeſty by your Lordſhip. And your Lordſhip very well knows, that at your Requeſt and Deſire, only upon Promiſes of uſing your beſt Endeavours to procure a ſpeedy and ſatisfactory Anſwer from his Majeſty, the ſaid Council-General was prevail'd upon to ſuſpend repreſenting that Matter further to the Government till the ſecond Day of *Auguſt* laſt paſt. On which Day your Lordſhip did ſignifie his Majeſty's Anſwer to

to the ſaid Addreſs. Upon Receipt whereof the ſaid Council-General did reſolve to ſuperſede any further Proceeding therein, till His Majeſty's arrival in *England*, as not in the leaſt doubting but His Majeſty would have in the mean time, purſuant to his Anſwer, given Orders to His Reſident at *Hamburg*, with Relation to the Subject Matter of the ſaid Memorial: But we are extreamly ſurprized to find by Letters of the 31ſt *ultimo*, from our Company's Agent in that City, that he had, according to our Order, been to wait on the Engliſh Reſident there, and with all the Reſpect due to his Character, intimated to him the Contents of the ſaid Addreſs and Anſwer. Upon which the Reſident declared, That he was ready and willing to obey His Maſter's Orders, but that as yet, he had got none in that Matter. We cannot imagine what ſhould be the Occaſion of this new Diſappointment, ſince we cannot ſuffer our ſelves to believe, but that His Majeſty has, according to his Letter to your Lordſhip, given Orders as aforeſaid, which makes us admire the more where the Neglect of that Matter doth now ſtand: Yet we muſt needs ſay, We are in ſome Meaſure afraid to acquaint the ſaid Council-General with it, leſt they be more uneaſie thereupon, than we would wiſh, till firſt we have your Lordſhip's Anſwer: For which Cauſe we, the ſeveral under-ſubſcribing Directors of the ſaid Company (who are now in Town) have thought fit, in as quiet a Manner as poſſible, to give your Lordſhip an Account thereof, to the end you may in your Wiſdom and Prudence, adviſe His Majeſty with Relation thereunto; and doubt not but your Lordſhip will take ſuch Care herein, as may prevent our Calling another Council-General, with

Relation to the Premiſes, which we are bound unavoidably to do, if we have not your Lordſhip's timely Anſwer. We are,

May it pleaſe Your Lordſhip,

Your Lordſhips moſt Obedient,

Humble Servants, Sic Subſcribitur,

Ad. Cockburn,	Robert Blackwood,
Fran. Montgomery,	James Balfour,
Archb. Mure,	William Paterſon.
Geo. Clark,	

To the Right Honourable the Earl of Tullibardin, *Principal Secretary of State for the Kingdom of* Scotland.

Memorandum. *The Duplicate hereof was likewiſe ſent at the ſame time to the Right Honourable Sir* James Ogilvie, *Knight*, &c.

To

To the King's Moſt Excellent Majeſty.

The Humble Addreſs of the Council-General of the Company of *Scotland*, Trading to *Africa* and the *Indies*.

May it pleaſe Your Majeſty,

BY a former Addreſs of the 28th of *June* laſt, we have humbly repreſented to Your Majeſty, how that Your Majeſty's Envoy to the Courts of *Lunenburg*, and Reſident at *Hamburgh*, did under Pretence of Special Warrant from Your Majeſty, give in a Memorial to the Senate of the ſaid City of *Hamburgh*, contrary to the Law of Nations, and expreſly invading the Privileges contained in the Acts of Parliament and Letters Patent, by which our Company is eſtabliſhed: Copies of which Addreſs and Memorial we have, for Your Majeſty's better Information, hereto annexed. In anſwer to which, Your MAJESTY was then graciouſly pleaſed to ſignifie by Your Royal Letter, That upon Your MAJESTY's arrival in *England*, You would take the Contents of our ſaid Addreſs into Conſideration. And that in the mean time, You would give Orders to Your ſaid Miniſters not to make uſe of your Majeſty's Name or Authority for obſtructing our Company in the Proſecution of our Trade, with the Inhabitants of the ſaid City of *Hamburg*. In the full Aſſurance of which we reſted ſecure, and took our Meaſures accordingly, till to our further Surprize and great Diſappointment, we find, by repeated Advices from *Hamburg*, That Your Majeſty's ſaid Reſident continues ſtill Contumacious, and is ſo far from giving due Obedience to Your Majeſty's

jeſty's ſaid Order, that upon Application made to him for that Effect, with all the Reſpect due to his Character, he pretended that he had never as yet got any ſuch Order on our Behalf, which we thought fit in all Duty and Humility, to lay before Your Majeſty, renewing withal our moſt humble and earneſt Requeſt, That Your Majeſty would be now graciouſly pleaſed to take the Contents of This, and our ſaid former Addreſs, into Conſideration, and in your Royal Wiſdom order ſome ſpeedy and effectual Redreſs of our Grievances therein mentioned, and a juſt Reparation of the manifeſt Damages, which our Company has already ſuſtained, by reaſon of the ſaid Memorial. And grant us a Declaration under Your Royal Hand, to render the Senate and Inhabitants of the ſaid City of *Hamburg*, and all others with whom we have occaſion to enter in Commerce, ſecure from the Threatnings and other falſe Suggeſtions, mentioned in the ſaid Memorial, as well as to render us ſecure under Your Majeſty's Protection in the free Enjoyment of our Lawful Rights and Privileges contained in Your Majeſty's Acts of Parliament and Letters Patent above-mentioned.

Sign'd at Edinburgh, *the* 22*d Day of* Decemb. 1697, *in Name, Preſence, and by Order of the ſaid Council-General, by,*

May it pleaſe Your Majeſty,

Your Majeſty's moſt Faithful, moſt Dutiful, moſt Humble, and moſt Obedient Subject and Servant, Sic ſubſcribitur,

Fran. Scott. *Pr.*

To

To the Right Honourable the Lord High Chancellor, and remanent Lords of His Majesty's most Honourable Privy-Council.

The humble Representation of the Council-General of the Company of Scotland, *Trading to* Africa *and the* Indies.

May it please your Lordships,

'TIs not unknown to your Lordships, how that in several successive Sessions of this current Parliament, His Majesty's Instructions to His respective High Commissioners, and their several Speeches pursuant thereunto, have been full of repeated Assurances of His Majesty's good Inclinations for encouraging the Trade and Manufactures of this Nation. And whereas accordingly, by the 32d Act of the 4th Session, and the 8th Act of the 5th Session of the said Parliament, together with His Majesty's Letters Patent under the great Seal of this Kingdom, our Company is establish'd with such ample Privileges and Immunities as were thought most proper for encouraging both Natives and Foreigners to joyn in the carrying on, supporting and advancement of our Trade. We have in pursuance and upon publick Faith thereof, not only contributed at home a far more considerable Joint-Stock than ever was raised before in this Nation, for any publick Undertaking or Project of Trade whatsoever; but have also had all the promising Hopes and

Prospect

Proſpect of Foreign Aid that our Hearts could wiſh, till, to our great ſurprize, the Engliſh Miniſters at *Hamburgh* have, under pretence of Special Warrant from His Majeſty, put a ſtop thereto, by giving in a Memorial to the Senate of that City, threatning both Senate and Inhabitants with the King's utmoſt Diſpleaſure, if they ſhould countenance or joyn with us in any Treaty of Trade and Commerce: As by the annexed Copy thereof may appear.

Upon due Conſideration whereof, we have, in all Duty and Humility, addreſs'd His Majeſty in *June* laſt for redreſs thereof. In anſwer to which Addreſs His Majeſty was then graciouſly pleaſed to ſignifie by His Royal Letter, That upon His return into *England*, He would take into Conſideration the Contents of our ſaid Addreſs. And that in the mean time He would give Orders to His ſaid Miniſters at *Hamburgh*, not to make uſe of His Royal Name or Authority for obſtructing the Trade of our Company with the Inhabitants of that City. In the full aſſurance of which we reſted ſecure, and took our Meaſures accordingly, till, to our further Surprize and unſpeakable Prejudice, we found by repeated Advices from *Hamburgh*, that the ſaid Reſident continues ſtill Contumacious, and is ſo far from due Obedience to His Majeſty's ſaid Order, that upon Application made to him by our Agent in that City, with all the Reſpect due to his Character, he declared, That as yet he had got no ſuch Order on our behalf: Which, by a further Addreſs we are now to lay before His Majeſty.

But

But whereas we humbly conceive your Lordſhips to be more immediately under His Majeſty the Guardians of the Laws and Liberties of this Kingdom, we think it our Duty to repreſent to Your Lordſhips the Conſequences of the ſaid Memorial, both with relation to our Company in particular, and the Privileges, Intereſt, Honour, Dignity and Reputation of the Nation in general.

Your Lordſhips very well know of what Concern the Succeſs of this Company is to the whole Kingdom, and that ſcarce any particular Society or Corporation within the ſame can juſtly boaſt of ſo unanimous a Suffrage or Sanction, as the Acts of Parliament, by which this Company is eſtabliſhed: So that if effectual means be not taken for putting an early ſtop to ſuch an open and violent Infringement of, and Encroachment upon the Privileges of ſo ſolemn a Conſtitution, 'tis hard to gueſs how far it may in after Ages, be made uſe of as a Precedent for invading and overturning, even the very Fundamental Rights, Natural Liberties and indiſputable Independency of this Kingdom; which, by the now open and frequent Practiſes of our unkind Neighbours, ſeem to be too ſhreudly pointed at. And ſhould this Company (wherein the moſt conſiderable of the Nobility, Gentry, Merchants, and whole Body of the Royal Boroughs are concern'd) be ſo unhappy (which God forbid) as to have its Deſigns rendred unſucceſsful, through the unaccountable evil Treatments of our ſaid Neighbours; moſt certain it is, that no Conſideration whatever, can thereafter induce this Nation to join in any

ſuch other Publick, tho' never ſo advantageous Undertaking, as not doubting but to meet with the like or greater Diſcouragements from thoſe who give ſuch frequent and manifeſt Indications of their Deſigns, to wreſt our Right and Freedom of Trade out of our Hands.

For which cauſe we humbly offer the Premiſes to your Lordſhip's Conſideration, not doubting but you will (in your profound Wiſdom and Prudence) take ſuch effectual Meaſures for redreſs thereof at preſent, and to prevent the like Encroachments for the future, as may be capable to remove thoſe Apprehenſions and Jealouſies which the bare-faced and avowed Methods of the *Engliſh* do now ſuggeſt, not only to our Company in particular, but even to the whole Body of this Nation in general.

Sign'd at Edinburgh, *the* 22*d Day of* December 1697, *in Name, Preſence, and by Order of the ſaid Council-General, by,*

May it pleaſe Your Lordſhips,

Your Lordſhip's moſt Obedient,

and moſt humble Servant,

Sic Subſcribitur,

Fran. Scott, Pr.

The

The Answer by the two Secretaries of State, to the President of the Company.

Kensington, Jan. 17. 1697-8.

SIR,

WE presented this Day to the King, the Addres of the African Company: We could not have Opportunity to do it sooner, His Majesty being so much taken up at this time. The King said, That he had already given Orders to his Resident at *Hamburg* in that Matter, conform to his Letter he wrote from *Flanders* in *July* last, which was communicated to the Company. We are,

SIR,

Your Humble Servants,

Sic subscribitur,

Tullibardin,
Ja. Ogilvie.

To Sir FRANCIS SCOTT, *of* Thirlestane.

To his Grace His Majesty's High Commissioner, and the Right Honourable the States of Parliament.

The Humble Petition of the Council-General of the Company of Scotland, *Trading to* Africa *and the* Indies,

Sheweth,

THat whereas the Wisdom of the King, and this present Parliament, has thought fit by two several solemn Acts and Letters Patent under the Great Seal of this Kingdom, to establish our Company with such Powers, Privileges and Immunities, as were thought needful, to encourage any such new Undertaking in this Nation, particularly to raise a Joint-Stock in such manner as we should think fit. And for that end to enfranchise such Foreigners as would become Partners with us, and to enter into Treaties of Commerce with any in Amity with His Majesty for that effect, *&c.* Those of our Number who were then intrusted with the Management thereof, did think it most Natural to make the first Offer of sharing our said Privileges, with our Country-men, and other Neighbours in *England*, as living under the same Monarchy. And they not only readily embraced the Offer, but in nine Days time subcribed 300000 *l.* Sterling, as the one half of the Capital Stock then proposed, and actually paid in the first fourth Part thereof, part in

in Specie, part in Bank-Notes, and the reſt in Notes payable upon demand.

That both Houſes of the Parliament of *England*, taking umbrage at thoſe Proceedings, did not only jointly Addreſs His Majeſty, for fruſtraring the Ends of the ſaid Act; but the Houſe of Commons did alſo appoint a Committee to examine, What Methods were taken, for obtaining the ſaid Act of Parliament here, for eſtabliſhing our Company, who were the Subſcribers thereto, and who were the Promoters and Adviſers thereof, with Power to ſend for Perſons, Papers and Records; purſuant to which, the ſaid Committee gave Orders to ſummon not only the Engliſh Subſcribers, but even ſome Perſons then reſiding in *Scotland*, as by the ſaid Addreſs, Votes of the Houſe of Commons, and Copy of the ſaid Summons, may appear; by all which, together with ſome other Meaſures then taken. Our Friends in *England* were, to our great Loſs, Diſappointment, and Retardment, forced to relinquiſh, *&c.*

That notwithſtanding of that Diſcouragement, not only moſt of the Nobility, Gentry, Merchants, and the whole Body of the Royal Boroughs, have upon the Inducement, and Publick Faith of the ſaid Acts of Parliament and Letters Patent, contributed as Adventurers, in raiſing a far more Conſiderable Joint-Stock, than any was ever before rais'd in this Kingdom for any Publick Undertaking or Project of Trade whatſoever (which makes it now of ſo much the more univerſal a Concern to the Nation) but we have alſo had all the promiſing Hopes of Forreign Aid, that our Hearts could wiſh, eſpecially at *Hamburgh*, where the Merchants of that City entred into Contract with our De-

Deputees, to joyn at leaſt 200000 *l.* Sterling with us, till, to our great Surprize and Loſs, the Engliſh Miniſters there, did, under Pretence of Special Warrant from His Majeſty, put a Stop thereto, by giving in a Memorial to the Senate of that City, not only diſowning the Authority of the ſaid Acts of Parliament and Letters Patents, but alſo threatning both Senate and Inhabitants, with the Kings outmoſt Diſpleaſure, if they ſhould countenance or joyn with us in any Treaty of Trade or Commerce, as by the annexed Copies thereof, in *French* and *Engliſh* may appear; which Memorial, We humbly pray, may for the better Information of your Grace, and Right Honourable Eſtates, be alſo read in Parliament.

That after the ſaid Memorial was by the Senate tranſmitted to the Commercij or Body of Merchants of that City, they to aſſert their own Freedom, did adviſe and prevail upon our Deputees and Agents, who were there for the time, to open Books in the ſaid Merchants Hall, where for ſome Days they ſign'd conſiderable Summs purſuant to their ſaid Contract, though under Condition to be void, if we ſhould not procure ſome Declaration from the King, that might render them ſecure from the Threatnings and other Inſinuations contained in the ſaid Memorial: And to our great Diſappointment, thus the Caſe ſtands in ſuſpence, between them and us to this Day.

That as the reaſonable (nay, and unqueſtionable) Proſpect which we had of a powerful Aſſiſtance from *Hamburg*, and ſeveral other Places (if not obſtructed as aforeſaid) induced us to propoſe a far greater Equipage at firſt than otherwiſe we would have done; ſo the rendring of thoſe Meaſures

ab-

abortive, has not only weakened our Stock, leſſened our Credit, retarded our firſt Expedition, and diſhheartned many of our Partners at Home, but even alſo ſhackled our Reſolutions and Power from proſecuting at preſent ſeveral other Branches of Foreign and Domeſtick Trades and Improvements, which we had in view, if we had not met with ſuch Obſtructions and Diſcouragements from time to time.

That though our Company is more immediately and ſenſibly touched in many Reſpects by ſuch Proceedings than any other ; yet we humbly conceiving alſo, that the Honour and Independency of the Nation, as well as the Authority and Credit of the Parliament is ſtruck at through our ſides, we could not as Country-Men ; and in Duty to that collective Power, which gave our Company firſt a Being ; but inform his Grace, His Majeſty's High Commiſſioner, and the Right Honourable the Eſtates of Parliament of the Premiſes, to the end that the great Council of the Nation, now aſſembled (whom God Almighty direct) may do therein as they in their profound VViſdom and Diſcretion ſhall think fit.

That as to what thereof concerns our Company in particular, we ſhall humbly beg leave to ſuggeſt further, that our Ships being now at Sea, on their intended Voyage, the former Treatment which our Company met with in *England* and elſewhere, may give us too juſt Grounds to ſuſpect, that if either through multiplicity of Publick Affairs, or otherwiſe howſoever : Your Grace and Right Honourable Eſtates of Parliament, ſhould neglect the taking preſent Notice of ſuch Uſage the Enemies of our Company, would be thereby

encouraged, either directly or indirectly to purſue their former Deſigns of ruining (if poſſible) all our Meaſures.

May it therefore pleaſe your Grace, and the Right Honourable the Eſtates of Parliament, to take the Premiſes into your moſt ſerious Conſideration, to vindicate our Company's Reputation Abroad, by ſupporting the Credit of the ſaid Acts of Parliament and Letters Patent, by which the ſame is eſtabliſhed, and wherein the Honour of the Nation is ſo much concerned, to take effectual Meaſures (as the ſaid Act provides) for repairing the great Loſs and Damages, which we have already ſuſtained, thro' the unawarrantable Treatment above-mention'd, as well as for preventing the like for the future; and withal to continue us the Privileges and Exemptions mentioned in the ſaid Acts of Parliament and Letters Patent for ſome longer time, in Conſideration of the time already elapſed without Execution, and our Stock lying dead without Improvement, by Reaſon of the Obſtructions aforeſaid.

Sign'd at *Edinburgh*, the 22d Day of *July*, 1698. in Name and Preſence of the ſaid Council-General, by, *Sic ſubſcribitur*,

Baſil Hamilton, J. P. C. G.

An Addreſs to his Majeſty by the Parliament thereupon.

WE your Majeſty's moſt loyal and faithful Subjects, The Noblemen, Barons, and Burgeſſes conveened in Parliament, humbly repreſent to your Majeſty, That having conſidered a Repreſentation made to us by the Council-General of the Company Trading to *Africa* and the *Indies:* making mention of ſeveral Obſtructions they have met with in the Proſecution of their Trade. particularly by a Memorial preſented to the Senate of *Hamburgh*, by your Majeſty's Reſidents in that City, tending to leſſen the Credit of the Rights and Privileges granted to the ſaid Company, by an Act of this preſent Parliament.

We therefore in all humble Duty lay before your Majeſty, the whole Nation's Concern in this Matter, and we do moſt earneſtly entreat, and moſt aſſuredly expect, That your Majeſty will in your Royal Wiſdom take ſuch Meaſures as may effectually vindicate the undoubted Rights and Privileges of the ſaid Company, and ſuppor the Credit and Intereſt thereof.

And as we are in Duty bound to return your Majeſty moſt hearty Thanks, for the gracious Aſſurances your Majeſty has been pleaſed to give us of all due Encouragement for promoting the Trade of this Kingdom: So we are thereby encourag'd

at preſent, humbly to recommend to more ſpecial Marks of your Royal Favour, the Concerns of the ſaid Company, as that Branch of our Trade, in which we, and the Nation we repreſent have a more peculiar Intereſt.

Subſcribed at Edinburgh, *the* 5th *of* Auguſt 1698. *in Name, Preſence, and by Warrant of the Eſtates of Parliament.*

Sic-Subſcribitur, Seafield, *I. P. D. P.*

To

To the King's moſt Excellent Majeſty.

The humble Petition of the Court of Directors of the Company of Scotland, *trading to* Africa *and the* Indies.

Sheweth,

THAT whereas the Eſtates of Parliament have by their Addreſs of the 5*th* of *Auguſt* inſtant, been pleaſed to recommend the Concerns of the ſaid Company to ſome Marks of your Royal Favour for ſupporting the Credit and Intereſt thereof, which has already ſuffered in a great meaſure, by reaſon of the ſeveral Obſtructions which they have met with in the proſecution of their Trade; particularly by a Memorial given in to the Senate of *Hamburgh*, by your Majeſty's Miniſters there. We are thereby encourag'd in all humility to lay before your Majeſty,

That as the ſaid Memorial was given in to the Senate of *Hamburgh*, in a moſt ſolemn and publick manner: So your Petioners humbly conceive that the Effects thereof cannot be taken away, but by ſome Intimation made to the ſaid Senate that they may enter into Commerce with your Petitioners, as freely and ſecurely in all reſpects as they might have done before the giving in of the ſaid Memorial.

That in conſideration of the Damages ſuſtain'd by the Company as aforeſaid, Your Majeſty would be pleaſed for their Incouragement at preſent as a gracious Mark of your Royal Favour to beſtow

upon them the two ſmalleſt of the Frigots now lying uſeleſs in *Brunti-land* Harbour.

That in regard of the time already loſt by reaſon of the Obſtructions aforeſaid, Your Majeſty would be graciouſly pleas'd to continue the Privileges granted by Act of Parliament to the ſaid Company, of being Cuſtom-free, for ſuch longer time as your Majeſty ſhall in your Royal Wiſdom think fit.

In reſpect of all which, may it pleaſe your Majeſty to take the whole Premiſes into your Royal Conſideration, and give ſuch Orders and Directions with relation thereunto, as to your Majeſty in your Royal Wiſdom ſhall ſeem meet and expedient.

Signed at Edinburgh *the* 16th *day of* Auguſt 1698. *in Name, Preſence, and by Warrant of the ſaid Court of Directors, by,*

May it pleaſe your Majeſty,

Your Majeſty's moſt loyal,

moſt dutiful, moſt humble,

and, moſt obedient

Subject and Servant,

Sic-Subſcribitur, Geo. Clark, *I.P.C.D.*

Letters from Mr. Stevenſon *the Companys Agent at* Hamburgh, *to the Company.*

Hamburgh *the* 4th *of* October.

Much honoured Lords and Gentlemen;

I Wrote to you on the 26*th* paſt, adviſing you of my going poſt to *Hamburgh*, in purſuance of your Orders, where I arriv'd the 2*d* Inſtant. And the Day following I waited upon the Engliſh Reſident, and in the Company's Name deſired to know if he had yet received his Maſter's Pleaſure, ordering him no more to oppoſe the Tranſactions of the *Indian* and *African* Company of *Scotland* in this City; which I preſſing hard, anſwered by his Character and Honour, he never received any Orders from his Maſter that mentions the ſaid Company, ſince his giving in the Memorial againſt them: So I have no further to add but that I am,

My Lords and Gentlemen,

Your moſt moſt faithful Servant to power,

Sic-Subſcribitur, Alexander Stevenſon.

This was under Cover which containeth what followeth.

Much honoured Lords and Gentlemen;

BY this within-cloſed, you have a full Anſwer as to what may be expected here for ever. Since my parture from this, I am informed that the

the Engliſh here did conſtantly aſſert that the Company would never be redreſſed, and the Delay of the ſame, after all your means has made an Impreſſion upon the Minds of People, that it will never be at leaſt ſuch as they might truſt to.

Hamburgh *the* 18th *of* October.

Much honoured Lords and Gentlemen;

I Wrote to you of the 4*th* current, wherein I adviſed you of Sir *Paul Rycaut* Engliſh Reſident at *Hamburgh*'s Anſwer given me anent your Affairs, to which refers Mr. *Creſſet* Envoy at the Courts of *Lunenburgh*, being returned from waiting upon his Majeſty there; I thought it my Duty to wait upon him, and demanded in your Names to know if his Majeſty had ſignified his Royal Pleaſure, anent removing off the ſtop put to the Company's Affairs in this City through the Memorial given in to the Senate againſt them: To which Anſwer he received no ſuch Orders and was of the Judgment, If the Memorial were yet to be given in it would be done. I ſhall not enlarge what farther paſt, but aſſure you he ſeems to inſinuate that his private Orders from the Government of *England*, was to act quite contrary to your Expectations. This is all from,

My Lords and Gentlemen;

Your obedient Servant,

Sic-Subſcribitur Alex. Stevenſon.

To the Right Honourable the Court of Directors, &c.

This

This was under Cover, which contained what followeth.

Much honoured Lords and Gentlemen,

BY the within-closed you have an account what relates to your Affairs with respect to have the Merchants in this City concerned: I cannot offer to speak to the Commercij about the same, but those Merchants here that are Signers in the Books of Subscriptions, are as cordial as ever were the Stop removed, they doubt not things here would take the desired effect.

Letter from the President of the Committee of the Company, to the Lord Seafield *Secretary of State, upon receipt of Mr.* Stevenson's *Letters.*

Edinburgh, *Novemb.* 29. 1698.

My Lord,

THis is by order of the Council-General of the *Indian* and *African* Company of *Scotland*, to cover the incloſed Copies of two Letters lately received from our Company's Agent at *Hamburgh*. Upon reading whereof yesterday at a meeting of the said Council-General, they were not a little surpriz'd at the Contents thereof, considering the many repeated Assurances given them formerly by Letters, word of Mouth, and even in Parliament, that the King had already given Orders to his Ministers at *Hamburgh*, with relation to the Memorial given in to the Senate of that City against our Company. But after some reasoning thereupon, and considering how far your Lordship's frank Undertaking, when last in *Scotland*, as well

as

as the Station you are in, doth engage your beſt Endeavours to procure the Company Juſtice, and vindicate the Kingdom's Rights in this matter. They have ordered us, the Court of Directors, to tranſmit the ſaid Copies to your Lordſhip, and expect your Lordſhip's Anſwer to this our late Petition to his Majeſty, before they remonſtrate any further with relation thereunto. This is in preſence, and by Warrant of the ſaid Court of Directors, from,

My Lord,

Your Lordſhip's moſt humble Servant, *Sic Subſcribitur*,

John Shaw, P.

To the Right Honourable the Viſcount of Seafield *Secretary of State for the Kingdom of* Scotland.

The Secretary's Anſwer.

S I R, Whitehall, *Decemb.* 13. 1698.

I Received a Letter from you as Preſident of a Committee of the *Eaſt-India* Company, which relates to Accounts they have had from their Correſpondent at *Hamburgh*, with the Copys of two Letters they have received: I ſhall take the firſt convenient Opportunity I can have to repreſent this Matter to the King. But I cannot as yet expect to have it, for his Majeſty is very much imploy'd in the Affairs of his Parliament here. This is all the Anſwer I can give at preſent, and which you may ſignify to thoſe concerned. I am,

S I R,

Your moſt faithful and humble Servant, *Sic Subſcribitur*,

SEAFIELD.

To Sir John Shaw *of* Greenock, *&c.*

A Letter from the Preſident of the Court of Directors, in anſwer to the Secretary.

Edinburgh, *Jan.* 13. 1699.

My Lord,

SIR *John Shaw* of *Greenock*, having ſome time ago ſignified to the Court of Directors of our Company, the Contents of a Letter which he received from your Lordſhip, bearing date at *Whitehall* the 13*th* of *December* laſt, intimating that your Lordſhip would take the firſt convenient opportunity of repreſenting to his Majeſty the Company's Petition, with relation to the Parliament's Addreſs; as alſo the Contents of the Company's Letter to your Lordſhip, bearing date the 24*th* of *November* laſt. But in reſpect we have not all this time heard any further from your Lordſhip concerning that Matter, this is by order of the ſaid Court of Directors to put your Lordſhip in mind of the Premiſſes, not doubting but you have had before this time a convenient opportunity to repreſent the ſame to his Majeſty; and in expectation of your Lordſhip's ſpeedy and ſatisfactory Anſwer, I remain,

My Lord,

To the Right Honourable the Viſcount of Seafield *Secretary of State.*

Your Lordſhip's moſt humble Servant, *Sic ſubſcribitur,*

Archibald Mure.

The Secretary's Answer.

Whitehall, *Febr.* 7. 1699.

SIR,

I Have presented to his Majesty the Petition of the *African* Company; and I am commanded by him to let you know, That there being accounts that the Ships belonging to the Company are arriv'd upon the Coast of *America*; And the particular Design not being communicated to his Majesty, he therefore does delay to give any Answer until he receive certain Information of their Settlement. This you may signify to the Council or Directors of the Company, as being by his Majesty's Command: I am,

SIR,

Your most humble Servant,

Sic subscribitur,

Seafield.

To Sir Archibald Mure *of* Thornton, *&c.*

A Letter from the Company to his Majesty, giving an Account of their Colony's arrival at Darien.

May it please Your Majesty;

WE your Majesty's most loyal and dutiful Subjects, the Council General of the Company of *Scotland* trading to *Africa* and the *Indies*, having, by express, receiv'd an Account from the Council of our Company's Colony in *America*, that they arriv'd safe at their intended Port within a League of *Golden Island* on the Coast of *Darien*; and after having treated on board of our Ships with

with the Natives, who were always own'd to be the only Proprietors of that part of the Coaſt, our Men did, at the requeſt, and with the conſent of the ſaid Natives, land on the 4*th* of *November* laſt, and take poſſeſſion of an uninhabited Place, never before poſſeſs'd by any *European* whatſoever; and that, in purſuance of the ſaid Treaty, the chief Men and Leaders of the ſaid Natives have join'd with, and taken Commiſſion from the ſaid Council. We thought it our Duty at our very firſt Meeting to give your Majeſty an account thereof; and likewiſe that by Letters from our ſaid Council bearing date at *New Edinburgh* in *Caledonia* (being the Name given to our preſent Settlement) the 28*th* day of *December* laſt, we are poſitively informed that the *French* have a Deſign upon all that Coaſt, or at leaſt to make a Settlement ſomewhere thereabouts. And we humbly conceive, that the firm Settlement of our Colony in thoſe Parts, may be the means of preventing, or at leaſt, leſſening the evil Conſequences that may ariſe to your Majeſty's Kingdoms and Dominions every where, by the Settlement of any powerful foreign Neighbour in, upon, or near any part of that Coaſt. And we are always bound thankfully to acknowledg your Majeſty's Goodneſs for granting us theſe Privileges mentioned in the Acts of Parliament, and your Majeſty's Letters Patent, by which our ſaid Company is eſtabliſhed: So we do now in all humility confidently expect your Majeſty's Royal Favour and Protection, as having in all the Steps of our Conduct through the whole Courſe of this Affair, ſtrictly obſerved the Conditions required by the ſaid Acts of Parliament and Letters Patent: And referring this together with the Contents of our laſt Petition to your Majeſty's Royal Conſideration, to give ſuch Directions therein

as to your Royal Wisdom shall seem meet and expedient. This is in Name, Presence, and by Warrant of the said Council-General: Signed by,

May it please Your Majesty,

Edinburgh the 31*st* day of *March*, 1699.

Your Majesty's most faithful,

most dutiful, most humble,

and most obedient

Subject and Servant,

Sic-Subscribitur, Tweeddale.

The Company's Letter to the Lord Carmichael *Secretary of State.*

My Lord;

THIS being the first Opportunity that we have had to address your Lordship, since your Advancement to that eminent Station and Place of Trust wherein you are: We must account it a Happiness that upon Receipt of the late welcome News from our Colony's Company in *America*, we can transmit an Account thereof to his Majesty by the hands of one so much devoted to the Honour and Interest of our Country and Company, as your Lordship has upon all Occasions shown your self; and who being often Witness to our Company's Proceedings from time to time, can give a juster Account thereof than any other that has no Interest

eſt in our Stock, nor has ever been amongſt us. Incloſed you have our Council-General's ſeal'd Letter to his Majeſty, which we doubt not your Lordſhip will carefully deliver, together with an exact Copy thereof for your Lordſhip's better Information, to which we refer, but ſhall for your further Information enlarge a little upon the ſeveral Heads therein mention'd. As to our place of Settlement it is ſo far from having ever been poſſeſs'd by any European whatſoever, that by all the Accounts that we could ever yet get, not only at this time from the Council of our Colony, but even by ſuch Letters as we have ſeen and heard of from *Curacao*, and other *American* Iſlands, no European did before our Settlement ſo much as once ſet a foot upon that Plot of Ground wherein our Colony is now fix'd: And tho the ſame was altogether uninhabited, when our People came there, the chief Men and Leaders of the ſaid Natives of that part of the Coaſt neareſt adjoining to *Golden Iſland*, Eaſtward and Weſtward, have not only treated with the Council of our Colony before Landing, but have alſo in purſuance of that Treaty in a moſt kind and friendly manner admitted our ſaid Colony into ſuch Places of their Neighbourhood as are not yet poſſeſs'd, and taken Commiſſions from the ſaid Council in a very ſolemn manner, and joined with our People; and that in conſideration of our Colony's admitting them and their Followers to participate of the Liberties and Privileges granted to our Company by his Majeſty of *Great Britain*, OUR SOVERAIGN LORD, with Advice and Conſent of his Parliament of *Scotland*, entreating to be protected accordingly: We repeat theſe Words, as being the expreſs Words of the firſt Commiſſion which the ſaid Council granted. As to the French Deſigns of ſetling

ling thereabouts, it is a Point not to be doubted of: For in order thereunto they have already been tampering with ſeveral of the Natives, ſome of whom they endeavour'd to have carried into *France*; and we have very good reaſon to believe that a further Progreſs had been made in that matter before now, were it not the daily Expectations which that Court had of the King of *Spain*'s Death, which we humbly conceive is a Matter worthy of his Majeſty's Conſideration, and of no ſmall Concern to the Intereſt of his whole Dominions, tho this Nation and our Company may ſeem to be more immediately intereſted at preſent.

Your Lordſhip ſees we have in the incloſed Letter to the King, made mention of our laſt Petition, and hope your Lordſhip will take a convenient Opportunity to back the ſame: For as your Lordſhip knows, we have already ſuffered conſiderably by encroaching upon our Privileges, ſo we ought to be very careful, as much as in us lies, not to admit of any dangerous Precedents. And really we muſt ſay, We were very much ſurpriz'd the other day, when we underſtood by Letters from the Council of our Colony, that Capt. *Long* Commander of the *Rupert* Prize, who carries his Majeſty's Commiſſion for finding out and fiſhing of Wrecks, ſhould, under the colour of that Commiſſion, wherever he went, traduce our Undertaking and Colony to all ſorts of People upon that Coaſt, whether Natives or others, declaring that our ſaid Colony was no other than a pack of Rogues, Vagabonds, Robbers, and broken Officers, without any Commiſſion, and that the King would not own them: nay further, he himſelf came into our Harbour, where he was very courteouſly and reſpectfully treated by all our People

there; in recompence of which he very ingratefully made it his ſtudy all the while to ſeduce our Men, and did carry off one of our chief Carpenters, which is a very conſiderable Loſs in that part of the World, and in the Infancy of our Settlement, conſidering how neceſſary a Man he was, and the Difficulty of ſupplying his place ſo quickly as they may have occaſion for him. This kind of Uſage is really ſo provoking, that we cannot ſuppoſe but that the King may be graciouſly pleaſed to interpoſe his Royal Authority for preventing the like uſage in time to come, if his Majeſty were duly informed thereof. So in the confidence of his Majeſty's gracious Countenance and Protection, and your Lordſhip's hearty endeavours to procure the ſame; this is by Order of the Council-General, and in Name, Preſence, and by Warrant of the Court of Directors of our Company, Signed by,

To the Right Honourable the Lord Carmichael *Secretary of State*, &c.

My Lord,

Your Lorſhip's moſt obedient and moſt humble Servant, *Sic-Subſcribitur*,

J. Haldane, P.

Memorandum, There was another Letter to the ſame purpoſe, written to the Viſcount of *Seafield*, with an incloſed Copy of the ſaid Letter to the King.

The

The Colonies *Addreſs.*

To the King's moſt Excellent Majeſty.

Moſt Gracious Sovereign;

WE your Loyal and Obedient Subjects, the Council of your Colony of *Caledonia*, being here ſettled purſuant to the Powers and Immunities proceeding from your Royal Favour and Goodneſs; where, upon our arrival, the Natives on all hands, in complyance with former Agreements, received and entertained us with all poſſible demonſtrations of joy and ſatisfaction, there being no poſſeſſion, nor ſo much as pretended poſſeſſion, for any Prince or State in *Europe* upon this whole Coaſt, extending it ſelf conſiderably more than one hundred Leagues together. We found the *Indians* on all ſides in open War with the *Spaniards*, their neareſt Neighbours: againſt whom they beſought our Aſſiſtance, which we could by no means comply with, by reaſon of the preſent Peace and good Underſtanding between your Majeſty and the King of *Spain*.

Yet notwithſtanding this our juſt and peaceable deportment and inclination, and our certifying the ſame by Letters to the two neighbouring Governours of *Panama* and *Carthagena*; We have, to our no ſmall ſurprize, received certain Information, that ſeveral great and warlike Deſigns and Preparations are on foot, and carrying on by the *Spaniards* againſt this Colony; and that contrary to all Juſtice and Humanity, as well as the Treaties

Treaties of Peace between your Majeſty and the Catholick King, they now unjuſtly detain, and refuſe to deliver up the Perſons and Goods, that were ſaved of a Ship belonging to this Colony, called the *Dolphin*; which by misfortune of ſpringing a Leak, was not long ſince oblig'd to run aſhore and ſuffer Shipwreck near the City of *Carthagena*. All which have been no ſmall inducement for us to have improved the frequent Opportunities we have had of taking Meaſures greatly diſadvantagious to the Crown of *Spain*: Yet in order to avoid, as much as poſſible, any thing that might look like a publick Breach, until the ſame were laid before your Majeſty, and your Royal Pleaſure known therein: We have hitherto proceeded no further, than of granting of Letters of Repriſals for the People and Effects unjuſtly detained from us.

Great Sir, The *Indies*, as well as *Europe*, do at this time implore your Protection, and as the effectual opening the Door of Commerce to the trading World, and of more eaſy acceſs to, and correſpondence with the ends of the Earth, hath been hitherto hidden and reſerved by the *Divine Hand*, for one of the ſingular Glories of your Majeſty's Reign. So it's with no ſmall ſatisfaction to be any way concern'd in ſo hopeful an Acceſſion to the Dominions and Greatneſs of your Majeſty, and Wealth of your People; That we preſume to lay our ſelves, our Caſe, and this valuable Opportunity at your Royal Feet, moſt humbly beſeeching, that as it had its beginning, ſo it may continue to have its Being and Support from the happy Influences of your peculiar Bounty and Grace.

So with our earneſt Prayers to *Almighty God* for the long and happy preſervation of your Roy[al] Perſon,

Perſon, and continuance of your Glorious Reign, and moſt humble tender of our Lives and Fortunes to your Majeſty's Service and Diſpoſition. We beg leave to ſubſcribe our ſelves,

This Addreſs was delivered to the Secretaries of State about the middle of September, *together with a Memorial concerning the* French *Ship commanded by Capt.* Duvivier Thomas, *which was Shipwrack'd near* Caledonia *Harbour on the* 24th *of* December 1698.

Moſt Gracious Soveraign,
Your Majeſty's moſt Loyal, moſt Dutiful, and moſt Obedient Subjects and Servants,
Sic ſubſcribitur,

Daniel Mackay,
Robert Pennecook.
William Paterſon,
Colin Campbell,
Samuel Vetch,
Charles Forbes,
Thomas Drummond.

By the Honourable Sir William Beſton *Kt. His Majeſty's Lieutenant Governor and Commander in Chief, in, and over this his Iſland of* Jamaica, *and other the Territories depending thereon in* America, *and Vice-Admiral of the ſame.*

A PROCLAMATION.

WHereas I have received Commands from his Majeſty, by the Right Honourable *James Vernon* Eſq; one of his Majeſty's Principal Secretaries of State, ſignifying to me, that his Majeſty is unacquainted with the Intentions and Deſigns of the *Scots* ſettling at *Darien:* And that it is contrary to the Peace entred into with his Majeſty's Allies; and therefore has commanded me, that

no

no Assistance be given them. These are therefore in his Majesty's Name, and by Command, strictly to command his Majesty's Subjects whatsoever, that they do not presume, on any prtence whatsoever, to hold any Correspondence with the said *Scots*, nor nor to give them any assistance of Arms, Ammunition, Provisions, or any other Necessaries whatsoever, either by themselves or any other for them; or by any of their Vessels, or of the *English* Nation, as they will answer the Contenpt of his Majesty's Command to the contrary, at their utmost peril. Given under my Hand and Seal of Arms this 8*th* day of *April* 1699. and in the 11*th* Year of our Soveraign Lord *William* the Third, of *England*, *Scotland*, *France* and *Ireland* King, and of *Jamaica* Lord, Defender of the Faith, *&c.*

WILLIAM BEESTON.

Barbadoes. By his Eccellency,

A PROCLAMATION.

WHereas his Majesty has been pleased to signify his Pleasure to me by Mr. Secretary *Vernon*, that he hath been advertised, that several Ships of Force, fitted out of *Scotland*, were arrived at the Island of St. *Thomas*, with an Intention (as they declared) to settle themselves in some part of *America:* Their Design being unknown to his Majesty, and least the same should derogate from the Treaties his Majesty hath entred into with the Crown of *Spain*, or be otherwise prejudicial to any of his Majesty's Colonies in the *West-Indies*.

These are therefore in his Majesty's Name, by, and with the Advice and Consent of the Council, strictly to command all his Majesty's Subjects, inhabiting within this Island, that they forbear holding any Correspondence with, or giving any Assistance to any of the said Persons: And that no Provisions, Arms, or other Necessaries whatsoever be carried to them, as they shall answer the same at their peril.

Given under my Hand this 13*th* of *April* 1699, and in the Eleventh Year of his Majesty's Reign.

R. GRAY.

By his Excellency Richard *Earl of* Bellomont, *Captain General and Governour in chief of his Majesty's Province of* New-York, *and Territories depending thereon in* America, *and Vice-Admiral of the same,*

A PROCLAMATION.

WHEREAS his most excellent Majesty hath received Advice, That several Ships of Force fitted out of *Scotland*, were designed to settle themselves in some parts of *America*; and lest the same should derogate from the Treaties his Majesty hath entered into with the Crown of *Spain*, or be otherwise prejudicial to any of his Majesty's Colonies in *America*, his Majesty has been pleased to signify his Royal Pleasure to me, That I should strictly forbid all his Majesty's Subjects, or others, inhabiting within the Districts of my

my Government, that they forbear holding any Correſpondence with, or giving any Aſſiſtance to any of the ſaid Perſons, while they are engaged in the aforeſaid Enterprize; and that no Proviſions, Arms, Ammunition, or other neceſſaries whatſoever, be carried from hence to them, nor be permitted to be carried, either in their own Veſſels, or any other Ship or Veſſel for their Uſe. In purſuance of his Majeſty's ſaid Royal Will and Pleaſure, I have thought fit, by and with the Advice of his Majeſty's Council of this Province, to publiſh and declare his Majeſty's Pleaſure, and by theſe Preſents do ſtrictly charge and command all and every of his Majeſty's Subjects, and others within this Province and Territories depending thereon in *America*, That they forbear holding any Correſpondence with, or giving any aſſiſtance to ſuch Perſon or Perſons, who have been fitted out of *Scotland* in manner aforeſaid, and are ſaid to have ſettled in a certain place, which they have called *Caledonia*, That no Proviſion, Arms, Ammunition, or other neceſſaries whatſoever, be carried either in their own Veſſels, or in any other Ship or Veſſel for their uſe, from this Province, or any part thereof. And his Majeſty's Collector and Receiver General, and all other Officers of Majeſty's Cuſtom-Houſe, are hereby required to take notice hereof accordingly.

And I do futher ſtrictly charge, command, and forbid (by and with the Conſent of his Majeſty's Council, as aforeſaid (all his Majeſty's ſaid Subjects, and others within this Province, That they neither by themſelves, nor by any other Perſons authorized by them, contrary to his Majeſty's Royal Pleaſure as aforeſaid, hold any Correſpondence, or give any Aſſiſtance, or enter into any Traffick or Commerce with ſuch Perſons as are ſaid to be ſettled in *Caledonia*

donia aforeſaid. And if any Perſon or Perſons within this Province, by themſelves, their Factors, or Agents, ſhall contrary to, and againſt the true intent and meaning of this his Majeſty's Royal Will and Pleaſure ſignified unto me, as aforeſaid, hold any Correſpondence, or give any Aſſiſtance, or enter into any Traffick or Commerce, in manner aforeſaid, then all ſuch Perſon or Perſons ſo acting, as aforeſaid, ſhall incur ſuch Pains, Penalties, and Forfeitures, as by Law in ſuch Caſes are provided. And all his Majeſty's Subjects, and others within this Province, are hereby required to take due notice hereof, and to obſerve his Majeſty's ſaid Royal Will and Pleaſſure in all and every of the Premiſes as they will anſwer the contrary at their peril.

Given at Fort William Henry *in* New-York, *the* 15th *day of* May, 1699. *and in the eleventh year of his Majeſty's Reign.*

By Order.
B. Coſe. *Cl. Concilii.*

Bellomont.

God ſave the King.

Printed by *W. Bradford* Printer to the King's moſt Excellent Majeſty in *New-York.* 1699.

By

By his Excellency Richard *Earl of* Bellomont, *Captain General, and Governour in chief of his Majeſty's Provinces of the* Maſſachuſetts-Bay, New-York, *&c. in* America, *and of the Territories thereon depending, and Vice-Admiral of the ſame,*

A PROCLAMATION.

WHEREAS his moſt Excellent Majeſty having received Advice, that ſeveral Ships of Force fitted out in *Scotland*, were arrived at the Iſland of *St. Thomas*, with an Intention (as they declared) to ſettle themſelves in ſome parts of *America:* Leaſt the ſame ſhould derogate from the Treaties his Majeſty has entred into with the Crown of *Spain*, or be otherwiſe prejudicial to any of his Majeſty's Colonies in the *Weſt-Indies*, his Majeſty has been pleaſed to ſignify his Royal Pleaſure to me, That I ſhould ſtrictly forbid all his Majeſty's Subjects, or others inhabiting within the Diſtricts of my Government, holding any Coreſpondence with, or giving any Aſſiſtance to any of the ſaid Perſons, while they are engaged in the foreſaid Enterprize; and that no Proviſion, Arms, Ammunition, or other Neceſſaries whatſoever, be carried to them from thence, nor be carried either in their own Veſſels, or any other Ships or Veſſels for their uſe.

In obſervance therefore of his Majeſty's ſaid Royal Will and Pleaſure, I have thought fit, by and with the Advice of his Majeſty's Council of this Province, to charge and command, and do hereby charge and command all and every of his Majeſty's Subjects, and others within this Province and Terri-

Territories thereon depending, that they forbear holding any Coreſpondence with, or giving any Aſſiſtance to any Perſon or Perſons, who have been fitted out of *Scotland* in manner aforeſaid, and are ſaid to have ſettled in a certain place in the *Weſt-Indies*, by 'em call'd *Caledonia*, or to enter into any Traffick or Commerce with them, or any of them. And that no Proviſions, Arms, Ammunition, or other neceſſaries whatſoever be tranſported or carried unto them from this Province, or any part thereof, either in their own Veſſels, or any other Ship or Veſſel for their Uſe. Of which all his Majeſty's Subjects, and others within this Province, are hereby required to take due notice, and conform themſelves accordingly, as they will anſwer their acting hereunto, under the utmoſt Pains, Penalties, and Forfeitures, as are by Law in ſuch caſes provided. And the Officers of his Majeſty's Cuſtoms, and all other his Majeſty's Officers, are hereby alſo required to take effectual care that his Majeſty's ſaid Royal Will and Pleaſure in all and every of the Premiſes be duly obſerved and kept, as they will anſwer the contrary at their Peril.

Given at the Council Chamber in Boſton, *the third day of* June 1699. *in the eleventh year of his Majeſty's Reign.*

By Order of his Excellency and Council, I. Addington *Secr.* BELLONONT.

God ſave the King.

Boſton, Printed by *Bartholomew Green*, and *John Allen*, Printers to his Excellency the Governour and Council.

Edinburgh, Reprinted exactly according to the Originals, *Anno* 1699.

A

A second Proclamation published in Barbadoes *against the* Scots *Company and Colony.*

Barbadoes. By his EXCELLENCY.

WHEREAS his Majesty has been pleased to signify his Pleasure to me by Mr. Secretary *Vernon*, That he hath been advised, that several Ships of Force are arrived at the Island of *Cairat* near *Darien* from *Scotland*, with an intention to settle themselves, their Design being unknown to his Majesty; and least the same should derogate from the Treaties his Majesty hath entred into with the Crown of *Spain*, or be otherwise prejudicial to any of his Majesty's Colonies in the *West-Indies*.

These are therefore in his Majesty's Name, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Council, strictly to command all his Majesty's Subjects inhabiting within this Island, that they forbear holding any Correspondence with, or giving any Assistance to the said Persons; and that no Provision, Arms, Ammunition, or other Necessaries whatsoever, be carried to them, as they shall answer the same at their peril.

Given under my hand the 5*th* day of *September*, 1699. and in the eleventh year of his Majesty's Reign.

R. Gray.

Reprinted at *Edinburgh* exactly according to the Originals. 1699.

The Council-General of the Indian *and* African *Company's Petition to his Majesty,*

May it please Your Majesty,

WE your Majesty's most dutiful Subjects, The Council General of the Company of *Scotland*, Trading to *Africa* and the *Indies*, do in all humble duty beg leave to lay before your Majesty the present Condition of our Affairs.

Your Majesty from an earnest desire of the flourishing of your Antient Kingdom, having been graciously pleased by the 32*d* Act of the 4*th* Session, and by the 8*th* Act of the 5*th* Session of this current Parliament, and your Majesty's Letters Patent under the Great Seal of this Kingdom following thereupon, to authorize the setling of Plantations and Colonies in *Asia*, *Africa*, or *America* by the Natives of this Kingdom; and such others as should joyn with them; as in the said Acts of Parliament and Letters Patent is more particularly expres'd

We and our Constituents, Your Majesty's most Loyal Subjects did, upon the faith and encouragement of the said Acts, and Letters Patent, enter into a Society, erect a Company of Trade, and with great Charge, and after many Difficulties settled a Plantation on the Northside of the *Isthmus* of *Darien*, a place precisely in the terms of the said Acts of Parliament and Letters Patent.

And being sensible, That as our Company had its Birth from your Majestys most Gracious Favour, so it could not subsist but by your Royal Protection; We did therefore in all humble manner petition your Majesty's High Commissioner and the Estates of Parliament assembled the 19*th* of *July* 1698. Upon

Upon which the Eſtates of Parliament did with great unanimity Addreſs Your Majeſty, That you would in your Royal Wiſdom be pleaſed to take ſuch Meaſures as might effectually vindicate the undoubted Rights and Privileges of the ſaid Company, and ſupport the Credit and Intereſt thereof.

That Seſſion of Parliament ending before any Return could be had from your Majeſty, Reports have been ſpread by the Enemies of our Settlement, as if our Company had not your Majeſty's Protection: And as an evidence thereof; That Proclamations have been iſſued out in your Majeſty's Name by your Governours in all the *American* Plantations, not only to deprive our ſaid Company and Colony of the friendly Aſſiſtance, that might reaſonably have been expected from our Neighbour Nation, but alſo ſtrictly forbiding all your Majeſty's Subjects or others within theſe Plantations to enter into any Traffick or Commerce with the ſaid Colony; and that no Proviſions, Arms, Ammunition, or other Neceſſaries whatſoever ſhould be tranſported, or carried to them either in their own Veſſels or any other Ship or Veſſel for their uſe, and that under the utmoſt Pains, Penalties and Forfeitures mentioned in the ſaid Proclamations.

Which Proceedings we have but too much reaſon to believe have been of fatal conſequence to our Company and Colony, and conſequently to the Intereſt of all your Majeſty's good Subjects in this Kingdom. And we being fully perſuaded, that nothing could be ſo conducible for the ſupport of our ſaid Company and Colony in our preſent Circumſtances, as ſome ſpecial Teſtimonies and Evidences of your Royal Protection.

We do therefore in all humility and earneſtneſs beg of your Majeſty's fartherly Care of our ſaid Company in particular, and of the Nation in general, That your Majeſty would be graciouſly pleaſed to take off the force and effect of theſe Proclamations which have been ſo prejudicial to us, and to ſignify your Royal Pleaſure to the Governours of theſe your Plantations, that we may be ſupply'd in the common and ordinary way of Commerce. As alſo, That your Majeſty may allow your Parliament to meet at the day appointed in *November* next, or as ſoon as poſſibly can be, that your Majeſty may have the Advice and Aſſiſtance of the Great Council of this Nation in ſuch a weighty and general Concern, which we hope God will bleſs with an happy iſſue to his Glory, the Honour of your Majeſty, the Credit of your Parliament, the Intereſt of the Nation, and the Good of our Company and Colony.

Sign'd at Edinburgh the 19*th* day of *October* 1699. in Name, Preſence, and by Order of the ſaid Council General by,

May it pleaſe your Majeſty,

Your Majeſty's moſt Faithful, moſt Dutiful, moſt Humble, and moſt Obedient Subject and Servant, *Sic Subſcribitur*,

Belhaven, I. P. C. G.

To

To which his Majesty was pleased to give the following Answer,

WILLIAM R.

RIght Trusty and Well-beloved, We greet you well: Your Petition has been presented to us by our Secretaries, and we do very much regret the Loss which that our antient Kingdom and the Company has lately sustained: We will upon all Occasions protect and encourage the Trade of the Nation: And we will also take care, that the Subjects of our Kingdom shall have the same freedom of Trade and Commerce with our *English* Plantations as ever they had formerly.

Our current Parliament is adjourn'd to the *5th* day of *March* next, and we will order that the Parliament shall meet when we judge that the Good of the Nation does require it. And so we bid you heartily farewel. Given at our Court at *Kensington* the *2d* day of *November* 1699. and of our Reign the *11th* Year.

To our Right Trusty and well-beloved, The Council General of the Company of our Antient Kingdom of Scotland *Trading to* Africa *and the* Indies.

By his Majesty's Command, *Sic Subscribitur*,

Seafield.

To

To the Right Honourable the Lord High Chancellor, and remanent Lords of his Majesty's most Honourable Privy Council.

The humble Address of the Conncil-General of the Company of Scotland *Trading to* Africa *and the* Indies.

May it please your Lordships;

WE think it needless to trouble your Lordships with a repetition of the many Steps, Difficulties and Discouragements that we met with all along both abroad and at home, since the beginning of this Undertaking, the most considerable of them being already particularly known to your Lordships. But maugre all those Difficulties, we have with a great deal of Trouble and vast Expences settled a Plantation in one of the most valuable and impregnable Places in all *America*, situated on the North-side of the Isthmus of *Darien*, called by us *Caledonia*.

As no Nation in *Europe* ever begun any such Settlement with so considerable a Strength of Men, Ships, and other Necessaries, as we did: so no instance can be given of any Settlement ever heretofore made, that had so hopeful an Aspect in so short a time as our Plantation aforesaid.

But to our and the Nation's inestimable Loss, we have very surprizing Advices of our Peoples having deserted the said Settlement by reason of Proclamations issued forth in all his Majesty's Plantations of *America*, strictly forbidding all his Majesty's

Majeſty's Subjects to hold any manner of Correſpondence with our ſaid Colony, and that no manner of Proviſions, Arms, Ammunition, or other neceſſaries whatſoever, ſhould be tranſported or carried to them, either in their own Veſſels, or any other Ship or Veſſel for their uſe; and that under the utmoſt Pains, Penalties, and Forfeitures mentioned in the ſaid Proclamations. The certain Nature whereof could not but have put them in a deſperate Condition, eſpecially none of our Advices having come to their hands, tho we wrote to them at ſeveral times, by the ſeveral ways of *Jamaica*, *Barbadoes*, *Antegoa*, *New-England*, &c. And ſent them likewiſe an illimited Credit for buying of Proviſions, till our own Ships and Recruits ſhould come up to them.

We have taken ſuch further meaſures, as ſeem'd moſt reaſonable to us upon this unexpected Emergency, but have too good ground to fear, that not only what we have already done, but even all that we are able to do, muſt prove ineffectual, if the King and his Parliament of this Kingdom, do not give ſome encouraging Mark of their Favour and Protection, to our ſaid Company and Colony: Wherefore we have in all humble Duty petitioned his Majeſty that he would be graciouſly pleaſed to take off the Force of the ſaid Proclamations, and allow his ſaid Parliament to meet at the day appointed in *November* next, or as ſoon as poſſibly may be, to give their Advice and Aſſiſtance in ſuch a weighty and general Concern.

Your Lordſhips very well know the great Loſſes, both of Men and Treaſure, that we have already ſuffered by the unaccountable Proceedings of the Enemies of our Company and Colony: Nor can

we

we tell when to expect an end to such Methods against us, unless his Majesty and the Great Council of the Nation fall upon proper and effectual Measures for supporting so valuable an Undertaking.

May it therefore please your Lordships to take the whole Premises into your most serious consideration, and do us all the good Offices with his Majesty, that in your profound Wisdoms you shall think most expedient for supporting our Company and Colony's Interest, and give him an account of our present hard Circumstances, and how much the Honour and Interest of the Nation stands concern'd.

Sign'd at *Edinburgh* the 20*th* day of *October* 1699, in Name, Presence, and by Order of the said Council-General. By,

May it please your Lordships,

Your Lordships most humble Servant, *Sic subscribitur,*

Basil Hamilton, J. P. C. G.

FINIS.